



# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Animal Control Officers Complete Training**

**May 11, 2010 – Waterford, VA** – Loudoun County's newest Animal Control Officers have completed Basic Animal Control Officer Certification at the ACO Academy at the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy in Weyers Cave, VA.

Animal Control Officers Claudia Berrio, Chris Brosan, and Matt Strom attended the Academy from April 19-30. All three officers graduated near the top of their class, which consisted of over 20 Animal Control Officers from jurisdictions throughout Virginia

The 84 hour curriculum included:

40 hours of core curriculum that included companion, equine and agricultural animal behavior, identification and care, animal first aid, and capture techniques.

16 hours were devoted to animal related law and included companion, equine, agricultural and exotic animal cruelty investigations, animals as evidence, evidence collection and chain of custody.

24 hours were devoted to basic law enforcement and included search and seizure, conflict resolution and officer safety.

4 hours of public safety curriculum including signs to recognize child abuse.

8 hours of euthanasia curriculum.

Officers Berrio, Brosan, and Strom are now certified Animal Control Officers, working diligently to enforce Virginia State laws, Loudoun County and Town ordinances that pertain to animals and providing for their safe, humane, and lawful treatment.

"Everyone at Animal Care & Control congratulates our newest officers on a high level of achievement at the ACO Academy," noted Thomas Koenig, Director of Animal Care & Control. "The people and pets of Loudoun County are fortunate to have such a professional, skilled group of Animal Control Officers in their community."

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).

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